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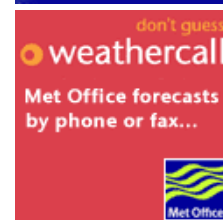
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British weather given a run for its money

22 July 2002

A new service for the participants in this year's Commonwealth Games is set to give athletes and spectators a head start against the weather.

The Met Office will be supplying two major weather services to those involved in the Games.

Firstly they will be providing a handy weather forecasting service sent direct to mobile phones via text message, which gives six-hourly forecasts with hour-by-hour detail for an exact location - whether it's the weather over the City of Manchester Stadium, the National Shooting Centre in Bisley or for any postcode in the UK.

Users simply type M2002 <space> WTHR4 <space> followed by a UK postcode, city, town or village name and then send the message to 8638 (Vodafone UK) or 2638 (BT Cellnet contract phones).

Within a few minutes users receive a six-hour weather forecast summary, with hour-by-hour detail, for the exact location requested. This service will not only be vital for athletes and staff, but also for spectators wondering whether to take a brolly or sunglasses along to the games.

The Met Office will also be providing weather information on the official Commonwealth Games web site. Users logging on to the site can access detailed five-day forecasts and hourly observations for the key Games venues in Manchester, Bisley and London. The weather information provided includes temperature, cloud cover, wind speed/direction, and is updated every three hours. Land observations, updated hourly, also record current weather such as recorded wind speeds, visibility, temperature and pressure.

Mike Hales, Communications Director of Manchester 2002, said: "We can't predict the weather ourselves - so who better to supply the forecasts than the Met Office. We anticipate that both the web site and text forecasts will be of great use to spectators."

For more information on the services, visit the [Commonwealth Games web site](#).

[More from the Met Office about XVII Commonwealth Games 2002](#)

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